GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1167
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2002
WOMEN EMPOWERMENT SCHEMES
CHHATRAPAL SINGH

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds provided to the Government of India by the World Bank under the Women Empowerment Scheme during thelast three years;

(b) the terms and conditions laid down by the World Bank in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that 20% surcharge have to be borne by the Government due to the Non-utilisation of funds;

(d) if so, the reasons for the non-utilisation of funds; and

(e) the funds allocated by the Government during the last three years under this scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) In the Development Credit Agreement signed on 14th September 1998, the World Bank has not provided for year- wise allocation for the Swa-Shakti Project. However, the reimbursement from the World Bank for the Financial Years 1999-2000, 2000-01 & 2001-02 amounts to Rs.1.33 crore, Rs.3.43 crore and Rs.7.93 crore respectively.

(b) The World Bank has entered into an agreement withthe Government of India on 14.9.1998 to lend an amount in various currencies equivalent to Thirteen Million Five Hundred Thousand Special Drawing Rights (SDR 13,500,000) for the five year project which aims at enhancing women's access to resources for better quality of life through use of drudgery and time reduction devices, health, literacy and confidence enhancement and increasing their control over their income through their involvement in skill development and income generating activities. The closing date of the Project is December 31st, 2003.

The Government of India shall repay the principal amount of the Credit in semiannual instalments payable on each February 1 and August 1 commencing August1, 2007, and ending February 1, 2032. Each instalment to and including the instalment payable on February 1, 2017, shall be one and one-fourth percent of such principal amount and each instaldment thereafter shall be two and one-half percent of such principal amount. The Government of India shall pay to theWorld Bank a commitment charge on the principal amount of the credit not withdrawn at the rate of one half of one per cent per annum. The Government of India shallpay to the World Bank a service charge at the rate of three fourth of one per cent per annum on the principal amount of the credit withdrawn. Commitment charges and service charges shall be payable semi-anually.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Project is process-oriented and utilization of funds in each of the financial years depends on completion of preceding stage. The pace of implementation is dependent on a host of variable factors which differ from State of State such as non-homogeneity of group membership, in terms of education and socio economic status, hilly terrain, immediate non-availability of trained personnel. There have been some savings due to economy measures and convergence effected by the Department of Women & Child Development. However, all SHGs under the Project have been constituted and are at various stages of evolution.

(e) The Government has released a sum of Rs.5.00 crore, Rs.8.00 crore and Rs.15.00 crore for the financial year 1999- 2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02, respectively.